## Message Text

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P 092113Z FEB 77 FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2383 INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL

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POUCHED TO ALL OTHER CONSULAR POSTS IN CANADA

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PINT, PGOV, CA

SUBJECT: RAW SEWAGE AND CANADIAN UNITY

- 1. HIGH-VISIBILITY UTTERANCES BY TRUDEAU, LEVESQUE AND OTHER PROMINENT FIGURES MAY GET MOST PUBLICITY, BUT FEDERAL/PARTY QUEBECOIS (PQ) BATTLE GOES ON AT ALL LEVELS WITH SKIRMISHING OVER MATTERS AS MUNDANE AS SEWAGE TREATMENT.
- 2. FEDERAL NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION (NCC), QUEBEC GOVERN-MENT, AND OUTAOUAIS REGIONAL COMMUNITY MORE THAN THREE YEARS AGO JOINED IN ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO SUPERVISE CONSTRUCTION OF 123 MILLION DOLLAR SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT IN HULL, QUEBEC. LARGE PORTION OF COSTS TO BE PAID BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.
- 3. SUCCESSFUL LOW-BIDDER ON INITIAL SEGMENT OF CONSTRUCTION WAS OTTAWA COMPANY. RECENTLY, HOWEVER, QUEBEC INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS MIN CLAUDE MORIN ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO CALL NEW TENDERS IN KEEPING WITH "BUY QUEBEC" PURCHASING POLICY ON JOBS OVER 50 THOUSAND DOLLARS. MORIN REPORTEDLY CLAIMED POLICY WAS NOT PQ INITIATIVE, BUT DATED FROM 1961. WHATEVER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SOURCE OF THIS POLICY, NCC CHAIRMAN PIERRE JUNEAU WOULD HAVE NONE OF IT AND WITHDREW NCC REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE PENDING CLARIFICATION OF QUEBEC POSITION.

4. COMMENT: THIS HASSLE PROVIDES GOOD EXAMPLE OF HOW RELATIVELY MUNDANE MATTERS TEND TO GET CAUGHT UP IN LARGER ISSUE OF FEDERALISM VS SEPARATISM. SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT IS ALREADY

THREE YEARS BEHIND SCHEDULE AND, AS MORIN AND JUNEAU ARGUE
POINTS OF HIGH PRINCIPLE, RAW SEWAGE CONTINUES TO FLOW INTO
OTTAWA RIVER.
ENDERS

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## Message Attributes

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